MIDWEST COMPUTER GENEALOGISTS

NEWSLETTER

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MILITARY SERVICE IN 3 WARS

Midwest Computer Genealogists will meet at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, February 16 in Bromwell Lounge at Brookdale Foxwood Springs in Raymore, Missouri. Our speaker will be MCG President Al Morse. We all know Al through his "The President's Corner" articles about his own family history and genealogical research and those of his wife, Dorothy (Newcomb) Morse. This month, Al will present the story of Dorothy's McDaniel family line with emphasis on her great uncle, Charles McDaniel (1894-1918), brother of her grandfather, James McDaniel,) and her uncle, Charles McDaniel (1917-1950), the son of James and brother of Dorothy's mother, Dorothy (McDaniel) Newcomb.

Al is a native of Rich Hill in Bates County, Missouri. He attended Rich Hill schools for 12 years, and he met Dorothy there in high school. Al attended The University of Central Missouri, where he received his degree in Education with a major in Mathematics in 1963. He and Dorothy were married the day after he graduated and moved to Independence, where Al taught in the junior high school and high school for 35 years. He taught all levels of Mathematics, including special Advanced Placement courses for college-bound students.

The first Charles McDaniel served in the Army during World War I, and the second served in both World War II and the Korean War, where he was missing in action and presumed dead from 1950 until last summer. His remains were returned by North Korea, and testing, including DNA testing, helped to identify his remains, which were returned to his sons for burial.

Join us on February 16 for this presentation. We will also have a brief business meeting for election of officers and discussion of MCG activities.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Al Morse

As my wife, Dorothy Jean (Newcomb) Morse, had health problems, health questions were always asked by doctors or nurses. As it became more and more difficult to remember everything, I went to the computer and made a health record for her. This was a big help as I simply handed them a copy. As a new incident occurred, I added it to the list.

Her health problems began in February, 1974 when she felt a lump in her left breast. She saw her family doctor, and he referred her to a surgeon for a lumpectomy at the Medical Center of Independence, Missouri. As the procedure was happening, the surgeon came to me and said that it was cancer, and they were going to remove the breast. She had a radical left mastectomy which not only removed the breast but also some flesh and muscle on her left side. The morning following the surgery, the surgeon visited her and told her she should be trying to lift the left arm up. She replied, "Like this?", as she raised her left arm. The surgeon smiled and told her, "You will be OK".

In the summer of 1975, while we were attending a Kansas City Royals baseball game, she felt a

lump in her on the left side of her neck. She saw a surgeon and had the cancerous lymph node removed, and they removed her ovaries also. She did have radiation treatments for her neck following that surgery. She had a hard time swallowing for the next several weeks.

For the next several years, she lived a normal life. She became active in PTA, cub scouts, baking cakes to sell, playing the piano and directing the choir at church, working at Cloth World, sewing clothes for the family, becoming a legal secretary, and retiring. As a family, we went tent camping, took vacations to California and Florida, and kept busy with gardening and some canning.

In the spring of 1996, she felt a lump in her right breast. Following a biopsy and chemo she had a radical right mastectomy. This was followed by more chemo and radiation. This took most of a year. We had retired and had moved to a double-wide trailer house west of Rich Hill, MO. This was across a country road from her cousin. We began doing a lot of gardening, growing fruit trees, growing berry bushes, and canning. We still had the house in Independence, which was very helpful, as our doctors remained in Independence and Kansas City. In the country, we were much closer to the nursing home that Dorothy's mother, Dorothy (McDaniel) Newcomb, was in with Alzheimer's disease. She died on June 10, 1999.

In 2000, Dorothy had carpal tunnel surgery on her right hand. She had gone to the doctor to talk about her left hand and arm, as she was losing feeling and the use of them. This was because of her 1974 radical left mastectomy. She was told that they could do nothing for the arm and hand.

On February 10, 2004, she had open heart surgery for one by-pass and replacing her aortic valve with a man-made metallic valve. She also had a pacemaker installed. Following this surgery, she could no longer use her left hand or arm because it hung loose beside her. Since we were living in the country and 70 to 80 miles from Kansas City and Independence, we sold our country home and moved back to Independence in November.

On January 1, 2005, she had a fever. We assumed it was the flu, but it got worse where she could not even use her right hand and had trouble walking. I called an ambulance, and she was taken to Research Hospital in Kansas City. She was diagnosed with a bacterial infection. She was in ICU for about a week and on the floor for another week. She went home, but needed to go back in on January 29. On February 4, she had a second open heart surgery where they replaced the mettalic heart valve with a flesh one. The surgeon also had to reconstruct the wall of the aorta. She was in surgery for more than 12 hours. The surgeon had to replace the pacemaker and put a new one in the area of her left waist. She remained in the hospital until March 17.

During the rest of 2005 and into 2006, she returned to the hospital for different bacterial infections. She also had two minor surgeries to repair problem areas. They placed a wound vac on her on October 18, and she had it until December 14. A home nurse would come out once a week to clean the wound vac. She also spent 5 weeks in 2006 at Timberlake Care Center in Kansas City, Missouri, to continue IV antibiotics. Following this, she never had any more bacterial infections.

In 2009 and 2014, she had to have the pacemaker replaced. She was dependent on the pacemaker, and the wire had to travel a greater distance than it would have if it could have been placed in the normal place, above the heart on her upper left side. In 2013, she had a tongue lesion removed, but it was not cancer. In 2014, she had carpal tunnel surgery again on her right hand and also had a cyst removed.We had moved to Foxwood Springs in Raymore, Missouri in August of 2008. We were active in gardening and canning. We also made several trips during the spring and summer to the 80 acres we still owned from the farm where she had grown up. It was located about 12 ½ miles southwest of Butler, Missouri.

She became active in painting using water colors. She painted several paintings which hang in our house. She could only use her right hand in doing this. She also cooked using only her right hand. We became interested in genealogy and worked at that and made some interesting discoveries.

On September 23, 2017, she had a stroke. The stroke affected her right side. After five days in Research Hospital and two weeks in the Foxwood Springs Rehab, she was able to return to the house. In December, 2017, a breathing test showed she had COPD.

In June, 2018, she was at Belton Regional Hospital for breathing problems. She went to the Wound Clinic in Harrisonville, Missouri for several sessions during the summer of 2018. She had bed sore wounds on her left elbow and upper left shoulder. She went back to Belton Regional Hospital for breathing problems on November 24. She was diagnosed with congestive heart failure.

Dorothy went to the ER seven times during 2018. She was losing energy, strength, and she was losing her appetite and was losing weight. She entered the Foxwood Springs Care Center on November 29. She passed away on January 3, 2019. Her funeral was January 8 and she is buried in historic Mt. Washington Cemetery in Independence, Missouri.

Dorothy was a survivor. She had a strong desire to live, despite all that happened to her. She quietly faced and accepted all of the challenges she had. She did not complain. She kept trying to move forward. She was a daughter, a wife, a mother, a grandmother, a friend, a musician, a cook, a seamstress, an artist, and a legal secretary.

THREE WARS, THREE READINGS

At the February 16 meeting, Al Morse will discuss the military service of two Charles McDaniels. One of them served in World War I, and the other served in World War II and the Korean War. The following are views of these wars can be read in the "Ancestry Weekly Journal" series, "The Year Was...":

The Year Was 1918

"After fierce fighting in battles at Aisne, Cantigny, Vimy Ridge, Marne, and Amiens, among others, on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day, of the eleventh month, the guns were silenced after the signing of an armistice in a railway car in the forest of Compiegne." Read more here: https://blogs.ancestry.com/circle/?p=1453. ("Ancestry Weekly Journal", 25 May, 2007)

The Year Was 1943

"World War II raged on in Leningrad. There was finally a break in the siege of that city as the Red Army opened a land passage that would allow food and fuel to the starving and freezing citizens who had been trapped in the city since September of 1941. . . ." Read more here: https://blogs.ancestry.com/circle/?p=2527("Ancestry Weekly Journal", 18 May 2008)

The Year Was 1952

". . . and military forces from twenty nations were fighting in the Korean War. Over the course of that conflict, more than 1.5 million U.S. troops would serve. . . ." Read more here: https://blogs.ancestry.com/circle/?p=1038 ("Ancestry Weekly Journal", 10 February, 2007)

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THE SLAVENS IN MISSOURI (PART II)

Marjorie Slavens

George Washington Slavens, my great great grandfather, son of John Slavens and Rebecca Mead Brace Crull, was born November 23, 1829 in Scioto County, Ohio. He moved with his parents to Pike County, Ohio, Vermillion County, Illinois and then to Henry County, Missouri in 1837. His immigrant ancestors were John Slaven (1723-1802) from Ireland and Elizabeth (Betty) Stewartt (1726-1795) from Scotland. They first came to Pennsylvania before 1750, lived in Delaware, and then settled in Virginia. Their seventh child, Reuben (1763-1839) and Sally Nancy Kennison (1772-?), went to Ohio, and their fourth child, John (1798-1865) and Rebecca Mead Brace Crull (1800-1881), came to Missouri.

George Washington Slavens had 10 children, 3 sons and 7 daughters, and one of the sons, William, died at 13. There are not currently many Slavens in our direct line who live in Missouri, although many others who descend from other sons of John and Elizabeth Slaven live in the state.

I have learned most of what I know about these ancestors from Books, records, and E-mails. Because of an unfortunate family situation, I do not know personally anyone in this line beyond my grandfather, William Howard Slavens (1883-1940). And my father, Ralph Westmeier Slavens (1907-1983).

In the 1850 census, my great great grandfather, George Washington Slavens, lived with his half sister, Nancy Ann Brace, and her husband, Thomas Anderson. He went to California with his father, John Slavens, at the time of the gold rush. They returned by way of Panama and the Mississippi River.

He married Nancy Jane Parks August 4, 1853, by R. D. Moore, Cumberland Presbyterian Church. She was born July 23, 1835 and was the daughter of William Parks and Susan Parks. William Parks was born about 1809, and Susan Parks was born about 1812 in Kentucky. He came to Cooper County, Missouri from Kentucky in 1827 and to Henry County, (then known as Rives County) in 1835, and settled on section 15

The children of George and Nancy were: Mary Calista Ballard (1854-1933); William P. (1857-1870; John Reuben, my great grandfather (1859-1887); Lillie May (1862-1872); Susan E. Crews (1864-1961); and Jessie Yantis Parks (1867-1944). Nancy Jane Parks Slavens died December 5, 1867. She and her son, William and daughter, Lillie May, are buried in Parks Chapel Cemetery in Henry County. In the 1870 census, George Washington Slavens' mother, Rebecca, lived with him and his children. In the 1880 Census, Jessie Yantis, 12, lived with her maternal grandmother, Susan Parks, 68.

After the death of Nancy Jane Parks Slavens, George Washington married her cousin, Agnes Jane Parks Nickols, a widow, on August 31, 1873. She was born March 16, 1845. She was the daughter of John Parks and his first wife. John was born about 1814 in Kentucky.

The Children of George and Agnes were: Edna Gertrude Brown (1874-1962) ; Effie T. (1877-1893); Nancy Elizabeth (Nanny) Brown (1879-1967); Charles Stewart (1883-1962).

George Washington Slavens married Sarah (Sallie) Settles Brown on March 1, 1885. She was born December 20, 1848 and died March 15, 1954 at Clinton, Missouri. At one time, the children from four marriages lived in the George Washington Slavens home, his children with Nancy Jane Parks, his children with Agnes Jane Parks, Jimmy Nichols, born 1866, son of Agnes Jane Parks and her first husband, and the children of Sarah Settles Brown, his third wife. George Washington Slavens and Sarah Settles Brown had no children. Her son, Frank Brown, married Edna Gertrude Slavens, daughter of George Washington Slavens and Agnes Jane Parks.

George Washington Slavens died July 23, 1907 at Clinton, Missouri and is buried in Bethlehem Cemetery. Both Agnes Jane Parks Nichols Slavens, his second wife, and Sarah (Sallie) settles Brown Slavens, his third wife, are buried there also.

My great grandfather, John Reuben Slavens (1859-1887), married Laura Martin Hesler(1863-1946) on October 12, 1881. Her step father was John Sherman Parks, older brother of Agnes Jane Parks, John Reuben Slavens' step mother. John Sherman Parks and Susan Hill McFarland Hesler were married by George Washington Slavens, Justice of the Peace in 1865.

In 1887, John Reuben sold his farm in Henry County, and they and their two sons, William Howard, (1883-1940), my grandfather, and Frank Hardiman (1887-1908), went with his two sisters, Mary Calista Slavens Ballard and Susan Slavens Crews, and their families by train to California. Shortly after their arrival, John Reuben died, apparently from tetanus, and his wife, Laura, and children returned to Missouri. The Ballards moved to Washington, and The Crews family came back to Missouri. Laura's father-in-law,

George, offered to care for them if they remained in Henry county. However, she went to Kentucky to meet her father, Martin Hesler's family. She always insisted that her father's family had a large amount of tobacco land and all of the slaves to farm it, but they had very little land and 1 female slave when Martin Hesler went to Missouri in 1860. She married her cousin, David William Hesler, in 1893, and for the most part, her relationship with the Slavens family was broken. My grandfather and my father were apparently influenced to want to have no relationship with the Henry County Slavens family, although both received a small inheritance from the George Washington Slavens estate. My grandfather bought a small farm in Arkansas in 1908. My father received some part of the estate following the death in 1954 of Sarah Settles Brown Slavens when the house in Clinton was sold. Laura Hesler maintained some written contact with her mother, Susan Parks, and her sisters there, but that contact was infrequent. Sarah Slavens died in 1954 at age 105, and four of the siblings of my great grandfather, John Reuben, lived until 1944, 1961, 1962, and 1967. We never met them, but my grandmother, Edna Marie Westmeier Slavens (1883-1966), corresponded with Edna Gertrude Slavens Brown, John Reuben's step sister. Lottie Jane Ballard Logg, daughter of Mary Calista Slavens Ballard and first cousin of my Grandfather, visited us from Washington in 1944. I never met any of the other descendants of George Washington Slavens, my great great grandfather.

My grandfather, Howard Slavens (1883-1940) was born in Henry County, Missouri. In 1887, he went with his parents to California, but his mother, Laura, brought him back to Missouri after the death of his father, John Reuben. She then took her sons to Kentucky to meet the family of their maternal grandfather, Martin Hesler, who died in 1862 while serving in the Union Army. She married her cousin, David William Hesler in Indiana, and they lived there until my grandfather bought a small farm in Arkansas. Will Hesler went to Oklahoma to work on the railroad, and Laura Hesler, my great grandmother, bought a small farm near Asbury, Jasper County, Missouri. Howard Slavens, my grandfather, and his family lived in Pittsburg, Kansas, where my father attended school, and then in Oklahoma, where my grandfather worked for the Phillips Oil Company until his death in November, 1940. Although they knew some of their mother's Henry County cousins who lived in Pittsburg, I do not believe they had much contact with the Slavens or Parks families. My father, Ralph Westmeier Slavens (1907-1983) grew up in Pittsburg, worked in Oklahoma, where my older sister and I were born, returned briefly to live in Pittsburg and Columbus, Kansas. We moved to Carl Junction, Jasper County, Missouri in December, 1941 and also lived in the eastern part of the state later. We had no contact with the Henry County families until my mother began her genealogical research. She then had letters and telephone calls with some of the various branches of the Slavens family in Missouri, including Ruth Elizabeth Slavens, daughter of Charles Stewart Slavens (1883-1962). Charles was the youngest child of George Washington Slavens and was 24 years younger than my great grandfather, his step brother, John Reuben. He and my grandfather, Howard, his nephew, were both born in January, 1883. Ruth gave us some good information about her family in Henry County.

NEWS AND NOTES

Jim Beckner will be our speaker on March 16. We will not have a meeting in April because the third Saturday is the day before Easter, and many people may have family activities that weekend.

OFFICERS
Al Morse, President
Byron Gilbreath, Treasurer
Marjorie Slavens, Programs, Newsletter Editor

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MIDWEST COMPUTER GENEALOGISTS

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January 1- December 31, 2019

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THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF, AND A SUPPORTER OF, MIDWEST COMPUTER GENEALOGISTS!

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DATE PAYMENT WAS RECEIVED BY TREASURER:
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F.Y.I.: Our meetings are on the third Saturday of each month at 9:30 a.m., except for September and December, when there are no meetings. We meet in Bromwell Lounge in the Administration Building at BROOKDALE Foxwood Springs 1500 Foxwood Drive (Missouri Highway 58), in Raymore, Missouri. You are always welcome at any of our meetings!